

# Promotion of Farming Best Management Practices and Calibration Technology to Mitigate OP Pesticide Runoff into the Sacramento River Watershed

Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES)



*Landowners and agricultural pesticide users learn the relationship between pesticides and water resources.*

## Award Amount

\$308,000

## Watershed

Sacramento River Watershed

## County

Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties

## CALFED Region

Sacramento Valley Region

## Legislative Districts

US Congress: 2

State Assembly: 2 and 3

State Senate: 4

## Purpose

Motivate growers to integrate permanent changes in their farm management practices to protect surface water quality.

## Project Goals

- Implement a 3-year outreach and education program.
- Minimize the off-site movement of pesticides from farms into the Sacramento River Watershed surface flows.
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- Minimize toxicity to aquatic systems.
- Educate landowners and agricultural pesticide users about their own vulnerability to off-site movement of pesticides into streams and rivers.

## Benefits to the CALFED Program

*This project addresses the use of pesticides, namely diazinon, in farming practices throughout the Sacramento River Watershed. Pesticides, including diazinon, have been identified by the CALFED Program as contaminants of concern in both the Central Valley and the Delta. The Water Quality Program Plan proposes a number of actions to correct this water quality problem, including the development of education and outreach programs. This project is an education and outreach program to encourage growers to integrate changes in their farm management practices that have the best potential to protect surface water quality. Implementation of this project helps further the goals of both the Water Quality and Watershed Programs.*

## Project Overview

This project is a 3-year education and outreach program in the Sacramento River Watershed. Its aim is to motivate growers to integrate permanent changes into their farm management practices that have the best potential to protect surface water quality. Implementation of these practices will minimize the off-site movement of pesticides into surface waters of the watershed. This project is being implemented in partnership with the Sacramento River Watershed Program Organophosphate Focus Group, which is working to address diazinon runoff in Sacramento River watersheds.

Elements of the project include identifying growers who farm adjacent to rivers and creeks; creating and distributing water quality educational materials; conducting voluntary site assessments; and promoting best management practices to protect surface water.

Implementation of this education and outreach program is:

- Raising the awareness level of growers in the Sacramento River Watershed about pest management strategies, pesticide application methods and on-site practices that can minimize pesticide runoff and improve water quality and ecosystem conditions.
- Showcasing these practices through educational materials and events in the watershed.
- Creating and encouraging the completion of farm environmental site reviews.
- Tracking the adoption of management practices to protect water quality by growers in the watershed.
- Conducting monitoring and reporting to assess performance of the project.



*The field on the left side of this picture has the potential to affect the stream running alongside it.*

## Contact Information

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